

**Seasonal  
Silver**

**Winter  
1986-7  
& Spring**



**Volume 2  
Number 4**

The purpose of this magazine/newsletter is to express a love of Nature and a basically Humanitarian point of view--that whatever our beliefs, gender, color, sexual preference--or whatever makes us unique individual human beings--we CAN get along with and love each other.

And we CAN love and respect Her:

Our Mother, the Earth.

This is a seasonal/quarterly magazine/newsletter.

Staff includes Donna Lyon Rhose, Aridiana, Geoffrey Pfaff, Miguel, Jaime Redwing, Gil Wyndel, Crystal Drajun and Arion.

With Special Thanks to Gary.



## The Reflective Woods

### EDITORIAL

#### WHAT IS THE BARDIC PATH?

The biggest problem I am running into is the assumption of some that the Bardic Path is necessarily Welsh and that it must adhere to some particular role Wicca or otherwise. Though I do believe the Bards were 'part of' the Druidic System--I do not believe they 'were' the Druidic System as some suggest.

#### The Bard Transends Place

Bards were the mystic poets, singers, storytellers, and were probably more tribal than organized. I believe they are direct descendants of the first shamans, for they are the shamanistic spirit finally brought forth in words--verbal communication. They were also shaman for they were 'inspired'--they channelled the energies (the form behind the words) of the Gods through their performance to the people. It wasn't (isn't) just 'what' they said (say), but 'how' it's said. It involves the very vibrational patterns utilized. This is the reason why the poems/stories were memorized word-for-word. But it involved even more--for it was (and is) important 'how' it is said. Thru this channelling, the Bard hopes (as the Gods hope) to open the souls of her/his listeners/receivers. This also presents a problem when translating a Bardic piece from language to language or ancient script to modern. Unless the translator is also a bard, I do not see how it is even possible to bring forth the energies--keys--into the new form.

It takes a shaman to be a Bard; it takes a mystic to be a shaman. One of the largest differences between being a shaman from Wicca is that (at least in form) one chooses to enter the Religion of Wicca. A shaman does not choose--he/she is chosen (whether or not they wish to be). I have often said, it 'does not' matter what 'I' believe personally. What I do as a Bard has nothing to do with my personal beliefs--the energies use (remember that) me for Their purposes. What I want has slowly eroded and blown into the winds.

#### Bardic Systems of Teaching

Unfortunately, no system of teaching can make you a Bard--you either are or you are not. The system(s) I have seen that supposedly take you up the Bardic Path (is that akin to Primrose?) only teach the repetition of words, the restatement of what has been. This is a Bard of the Lesser Path. What is happening today, is the return of the original Bard--the shaman/co-creator/inspired--the ones who



go forth into the astral (when I say astral, I mean 'all' the inner planes--I don't make firm distinctions as some do) planes to commune and retrieve so they may communicate in fresh ways. The natural tendency of the Bard is to communicate, to network, to extend, and to greet. They were the ambassadors between the tribes trying always to walk a line of moderation knowing their personal beliefs did not count. They had the practical purpose of relaying news from place-to-place, as well as relaying the energy of the Gods.

I can easily see that because the original Bards were Shamans, some rote has grown out of their earlier activity. Whether or not someone has access to that particular rote is highly debatable. One I've read has almost no substance, making it almost impossible to discuss other than their desire to discredit all Wicca as a whole. The other has far too many alien ideas to be Celtic (lots'n lots'n lots of Quabalah --I love Quabalah, but somehow I don't recall it being Celtic. Do you?)

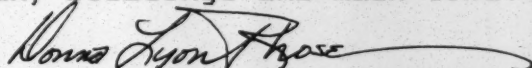
The Shaman Bards are returning, braving the astral waters, retrieving ancient keys, to speak in our modern tongue so all can grasp them.

The Bard seeks to reveal, not to hide--a misconception. A Bard seeks to convey the only way she/he knows how, thru words, voice, music, and gesture--thru 'keying-in' his/her energy to the God/dess's energy(s). They are channels, nothing more, nothing less--a tool, a gate; neither to be put on a pedestal nor trampled, for though they channel energies, they ARE NOT the energies channelled. (They are like a lyre; though they are the means, they neither are the music nor the player who makes the music.) It is always well for not only those who listen, but for the Bard him/herself to remember that! Nor would you needlessly/thoughtlessly destroy the lyre for then neither music comes nor may the player make that music. Thus were Bards highly protected in ancient times--no one dared raise blade or sword to a Bard; even so attempting was punishable by death.

Even secular society has its Bards; you hear them on the radio everyday. A Bard 'is'; he/she cannot help what he/she is.

Saying one can become a Bard thru simple learning, even training--rote and psychic technique, is like saying once you've learned to read music or even learned 'how' to write music, it automatically will make you a composer and eventually a great composer, I wish it could be so, but it is not. It is a gift of the Gods, and not something bought. One is or is not a Bard--from the very beginning--either you have the talent that can be developed or you do not.

I welcome openly all the wonderful Bards appearing again in the Pagan Community. Many blessings and much love!

*from the Foothills of Georgia* 

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NEWLY FORMING: Central Ohio Pagan Council now accepting applications/contributions. The purposes of this Council are for groups to share various Craft Traditions, promote a positive image of the Pagan community, sponsor festivals/gatherings, lend assistance whenever needed to fellow Pagans, Council members, their respective groups when possible. For details, send SASE to COPC/Eldar, P. O. Box 28692, Department 3, Columbus, Ohio, 43228.

Rev. Paul Beyerl  
(Syndicated 7 ii 1987)

## THE WITCH & THE CRONE

It was my fortune this past Solstice to take a journey to see the Crone. It was an exciting travel, for my years have been spent where soils are rich and brown, the fertility of land prepared by the passage of glaciers and the Mother Valley of the Mississippi. The winters bring us comforters of snow and the summers are filled with hot, sunny days and near-violent storms.

My departure from Los Angeles followed a private Solstice ritual, a rite taken in a temple of Mens' Mysteries. (A special joy, for my Tradition embraces both Goddess and God as equal in Magick.) Yet it prepared me for embarking across the desert in wonder at the intensity of experience which must have awaited the early explorer, isolated with horse, and countless days of desolate country.

My heart was amazingly uplifted in reaching the Arizonan mountains, at finding snow (SNOW!) and green-growing trees taller than a human head after hundreds upon hundreds of miles of desert. The further into the desert, the more the bones of the Earth showed through, for this is the land of the Crone. Here She shows the passage of time--where a stone face wears the work of wind-blown sand and small desert flora work to set roots into a time-worn crevice.

The Grand Canyon is the Valley of the Crone. Harsh, unrelenting, She is severe yet cradles within Her arms a love which tenders the blossoms springing forth when the seasons fall just so. Whereas Yellowstone awes one by the aliveness of the Earth (bubbling and spewing forth), I found the stillness--the stark wonder of what has taken Ages to create. These are the means by which Mother Nature brings awe to the Wiccan Heart. To visit this great site is to fall even deeper in love with the Crone.

I am a Witch, and I take my religious journeys to see Her at work. Give me the choice between a Pagan festival and a natural wonder, and I will always go to meet the Mother. She alone has the power to balance the fierce powers which rage within my Saturnine being. She alone can balance the depth of devotion to this planet which She evokes in my heart. For the Wiccan, some of the greatest of religious sites in this country are those untouched by temple, but preserved by the intense hands of the Mother-At-Work, in all Her aspects.

Special contributions this Issue: Asatru Free Assembly-Tx, Cassandra-NM, Dionysus-ME, Don Lewis-IL, Goldie Brown-PA, Grey Cat-TN, James Stuart Koch-OK, Joan Walters-GA, John Weil-PA, Karen Weed-MO, Lenore-GA, Lew Paxton Price-CA, Manshe-FL, Pat N-WA, Paul Beyerl-MN, Scott Fray-MI.

Dear Friends: I apologize for the late publication but due to lack of finance, Seasonal Silver was forced to skip a season. As a result, this will extend everyone's subscription one issue. Thank you for your patience.

*Donna Lyon Hrose*





### CALLING ALL CRONES

Reprinted by request of author from the Stardust Salamander; Samhain, 1986.

Into the dark, the pale light of the waning moon brings forth shapeless shadows--bushes, a wandering stone field-wall, nameless areas of blackness. Some still, some moving; no night for good folk to stray from cot or castle. Black hares move across the moors, black cattle idly gossip together, one old woman dressed in black searches the grass for secret herbs. And there amongst the standing stones, age heavy upon their backs, three hags dare all the mercy of God's Holy Mother Church to make the magic of an older race.

"Call old Mother Piggot, she knows the proper words for warts." "Tis Goody Nurse you'll need if it's a son ye want." "Tis naught but an Old Wives Tale." "Don't mind Mother, she hasn't been herself since she went through the Change of Life."

Looming high over the imagination of humankind, the shadow of the Crone casts a miasma of fear and uselessness, power and casting-out, across the myths of our race and society.

I have talked to women who have arrived at Crone Time or are preparing themselves for this transition and we have found much to talk about. I think that it is important we keep on talking after the yearly Season of Gathering has passed. I have absolutely no interest in trying to start a newsletter for Crones, nor founding OWL (Old Woman's League), SOW (Salty Old Women), CRONE (Clearly Rational Older Natural Energy), HAG (Honorable Aged Geniuses).

However, I, like many of you do not want to have to wait until next year to get a chance to discuss all the fascinating topics wombed in Crone Time. How about some suggestions and/or offers of help? Would we like to cooperate in an APAZine which dispenses with an editing and layout burden, leaving some low-level bookkeeping which I don't mind doing. Does someone feel like working on a Newsletter? Do we want to form a loose organization as part of or instead of the above? Or are most of us too busy to do anything about this between gatherings?

I'll be sending this letter to people I know personally and to many Pagan publications; you'll probably see it often enough to be sick of the whole idea. But there is a lot of magick available in the Time of the Crone. There is a lot of sociological pressure to understand, combat, or accept. There is a whole lot of our lives left for us to function as Crones. If we don't figure out what it is and what to do with it, nobody else will.

Write me at the address below (SASE appreciated) and let me know what you think about the whole idea, what you might be willing to do, what insights you may have about Crone Time--let's figure out what has been left out of all the books. We're already "Uppity Women" and we've nothing to lose but a bad rap. (Crones are assumed to be women more or less at the age of menopause or past it. Baby Crones are any who realize that this time is not far away.)

Grey Cat, P. O. Box 181, Crossville, TN 38555

## Question Me a Question--Answer Me an Answer?

Dear Seasonal Silver:

...while I don't understand poetry "too good" (unless it's sung), I did spend a few years in college studying sociology, philosophy, and how to have fun (raise hell). It is my opinion that in the realm of theology/religion there is no such thing as "Secret Knowledge." God(desse)s are fair, or it would be inappropriate to call them "God(desse)s." Such is the nature and definition of the divine, whether you're talking personal deity or supreme being. Therefore, we all know all divinities equally well, and we all share equally in all spiritual knowledge. Therefore, there is no such thing as a secret, a mystery, or secret knowledge within the context of religion. There is only one key to the divine ("mysteries"). That key is the desire to know such things. To want to know is to know all that there is to know. To sincerely want to understand the divine is to have achieved enlightenment. All religious discord arises from: most of the enlightened being unaware of their own enlightenment and anyone who thinks that there is something of a religious/theological nature that they can teach to others is obviously unenlightened. There are very few people who SINCERELY desire enlightenment. Therefore, there are equally as few who are enlightened. There are very few people who sincerely desire ENLIGHTENMENT. However, there are many who desire to be like those who claim to be able to show others the path to enlightenment are obviously unenlightened. Those who desire to be like the unenlightened ones, who claim to be able to teach enlightenment, are, in reality, seeking to remain unenlightened or seeking to attain unenlightenment. Unfortunately, those who are on the immediately above mentioned Path to remaining unenlightened or attaining unenlightenment often claim that they are seeking to remain thusly unenlightened or seeking to attain unenlightenment, because they sincerely desire enlightenment. Those who are seeking unenlightenment often claim to be seeking enlightenment. Those who so misrepresent their quest for unenlightenment are lying to themselves. However, such misrepresentations often serve to confuse others. This whole paragraph is merely an illustration of one example of a quite possibly infinite number of ways that confusion can arise from the second of my two stated causes of religious discord.

Why all this mumbo-jumbo about "Secrets?" There are no secrets. Why all this mumbo-jumbo about keys and even "Artificial Keys?" There is only one key. The key that unlocks the whole enchillada is simply the sincere desire to know. Why pretend it's any more complicated than that? ... What you are really addressing is everything except the truth about secrets and keys. All that you are addressing are the confusions that can arise in regard to these subjects. If the simple truth of enlightenment were accepted common knowledge, all religious "schools" would be out of business. If the simple truth of enlightenment were accepted common knowledge, most of those claiming to be seeking enlightenment would come to realize that they didn't want to be enlightened or that they had already been enlightened. Just once, I'd like to hear a supposed religious teacher tell a prospective student the truth. The dialogue would be thus: Student: "Teacher, I sincerely desire to know the true Path." Teacher: "You have already attained all that there is to attain."--John D. Wells, Pittsburgh, PA.



## QUESTION ME A QUESTION--ANSWER ME AN ANSWER?

A lot of people challenge the idea of Secrets--and I feel that my approach to the subject has been somewhat misunderstood. Anything that can be known/discovered by a person in the Mystical is no longer truly a secret. However, things that happen to psychics/mystics may or may not be shared. Usually, the reasons for not sharing these experiences--"secrets"--are vulnerability--or inability (many experiences we have, when expressed in words, cannot be conveyed with their full intensity, meaning, or beauty in any known human language).

If a group discovers a good way to work with energy, it may keep the method secret for it will become vulnerable--shared energy becomes open to use (and abuse) by the person(s) with which it's shared--the secrecy becomes non-functional and self-destructive when new group members are denied information. If I tell you my "personal" magickal name, you then possess a key to me. It gives you access to astral paths I walk, lets you call me psychically, and lets you know my inner magickal attitudes. It also gives you a method to abuse, use, hurt me.

Many things that are now on the book shelves about the psychic-occult were once heavily guarded "secrets"--methods to become psychic/utilize energy were not given to the general public (in the general public the basic trainings in morality have not been completed on the deep levels of understanding necessary to safely wield the power behind the forms). Not everyone who learns has positive intent (nor even necessarily evil intent--often ignorance of the Laws is enough to make someone a real danger as well as pain-in-the-\*\*\*.) For example, in the Craft the Laws are the biggest kept "mundane" Secret--so much so that many people who have been practicing the Old Religion/Paganism and its alleged magick for years are not aware that we too have our "Bible"--are not aware that there are very real moral/social laws that one is supposed to adhere to before going into the Art to solve problems--wield energy--do spells--heal the earth, etc. The Book of The Law (Book of Shadows)--and its teachings are a secret that should not be kept--but given to everyone immediately upon their entrance into a coven yet many HP's keep the Book entirely to themselves--or allow only "favorites" to have its knowledge. Wiccan writers Buckland, the Frosts, Leek, et al., don't even mention the Book--this is a miskept secret. Farrar alludes to the Book, but does not publish it in its entirety--again, another miskept secret and dangerous for the members of the Craft who desire to act in "righteous" ways.

The psychic person has a certain "twist" of mind that comprehends things written or spoken of a mystical (secret--hidden) nature the average person misses--and that constitute very natural "secrets"--that cannot be shared except by hint/innuendo--these things can only be understood when a person has reached a level of preparedness to utilize the information springing from deep within Self or from the External Energies causing the catalyst. When that happens, it's called Initiation or Enlightenment.

The keys I refer to are both those "little" things a psychic person will catch and greater: symbols, sounds, smells, etc., that aid one to understand the Energies in the astral and as they manifest. The biggest "key" is meditation--which will lead you to your particular path, knowledge, secrets, keys. The physical body is another key--thru the senses we can become

spiritually knowledgeable. No doors are totally closed to anyone who truly seeks--but not all knowledge gained can be shared--it can only be hinted at...and the abuse comes when there are things that can be shared and should be shared--mundane occult knowledge (if you will) that are not and should not be secret (another example: the word Warlock means in its entirety: Excommunication. It is not a joke--nor is it a "Male Witch"--yet an acquaintance of mine was told that this was a big secret--perhaps from the public for reasons I have never understood, but from a member of the Old Religion?). I've tried very hard to answer something I find difficult to convey. If what I say makes no sense, I must pass it by.

Donna

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It is highly idealistic to believe that simply desiring the truth will give one Enlightenment and there are no "keys" "secrets" "mysteries"--the God(ess) is "fair" which somehow implies all one has to do to gain enlightenment is desire it--without doing the mental/emotional-spiritual-physical work necessary to achieve Understanding. The mysteries are open to anyone who has the guts to travel the Path--whether Craft, Socially Accepted religion, Philosophy, art, etc. As Donna has shown, there are secrets (Mysteries) that occur within the Psyche/Soul of each of us that can be called enlightenments/initiations--some can be shared--some cannot due to vulnerability or inability. However, the mystical mind (which is not the psychological brain with chemical synapses) has the ability to grasp "secrets"--that which cannot be shared. Below is an "exercise" for those who want to try to experience the "mysterious knowledge"--the achievement of which implies an enlightenment and will also show the meaning of the Olde Saying: He who says, does not know; he who knows, does not say:

Get a copy of the Homeric Hymn to Demeter--where Zeus gives Persephone (against Her Will?) to Hades--and Demeter causes a blight on the earth. (Your local library should have a book that contains the Hymn--if you don't already have one.) Read the whole thing through--once. This particular Hymn is full of "mysteries." Note your emotions--objectively you will probably agree with modern critics that the ancient Gods were more idiotic than the people who worshipped them--but, the modern critics don't know the mysteries--they are judging from technocentric Judeo-Christian biases. To unlock the mysteries, begin rereading the Hymn. The first time you find a CONTRADICTION (don't worry whether this was a "mistranslation" from Greek to English--it's not--but would not matter if it were!..), write down the contradiction/what is contradicted. One Mystery is the "Zeus" mystery: The writer(s) refer to Zeus, The Far Seeing. How could Zeus have been "Far Seeing" and caused so much pain to His daughter, the Goddess, humans. Why do they call Him Far Seeing? What are all the ways Zeus is described? Don't they seem to be lies in light of His behaviors throughout the Hymn? After you've committed them to your brain or paper--go into meditation and QUESTION one of the aspects (Far Seeing) against the behavior caused (Pain). Ask something like: "How could anyone who's rational (the Greeks were/are considered "megarational") call Him "Far Seeing"--what is REALLY BEING SAID HERE?" He was Far Seeing--reread the last six verses of the Hymn--keep questioning until you get the answer. You will get



the same answer everyone else gets--but, try to explain how you got the answer--not what the answer was--but the point at which you received--understood--integrated the knowledge into your physical brain. Your first discovery should be of the "superficial mystery" Why It Is That Zeus Was Called Far-Seeing (or: How It Is That Winter Came To Earth)--there is a deeper mystery connected with the "Zeus" part of the Hymn--and it is not as the feminists allege another example of male chauvanism. Another mystery contained within the Hymn is a complete short story about what Demeter did while searching for Her daughter. Excerpt it in your mind, look for the contradictions; what does this story have to do with the wider story? (Precious little on the surface: how one of Her temples came to be built in a certain city.) What are the mysteries within the Mini-Story and the Greater Story--how do they link? This is a "secret" only the mystical mind can understand. Excerpt the Persephone story--what is really being said? Excerpt the Hades story--what are you being told? Simple Desire to Know is the "kick in the pants to get you started"--only hard work deep within brain and mind will get you the answers. As a teacher, I have hinted at the keys--I have pointed a way toward knowledge that cannot be shared--only you can pick them up, put them in the locks, and open the doors--and then point the Way for others. The understanding of these "mysteries" in ancient days constituted certain initiations (the level of your understanding of the same story was the degree of your initiation/knowledge)--meaning a person had developed the ability to look deeper than the obvious--to develop the needed skills of Understanding, Knowledge, and Objective Judgement in order to be strong enough to wield the forces behind the forms. Of course, there's always:

The Greatest Mystery:  
We are Separate, yet We are One.

Aridiana



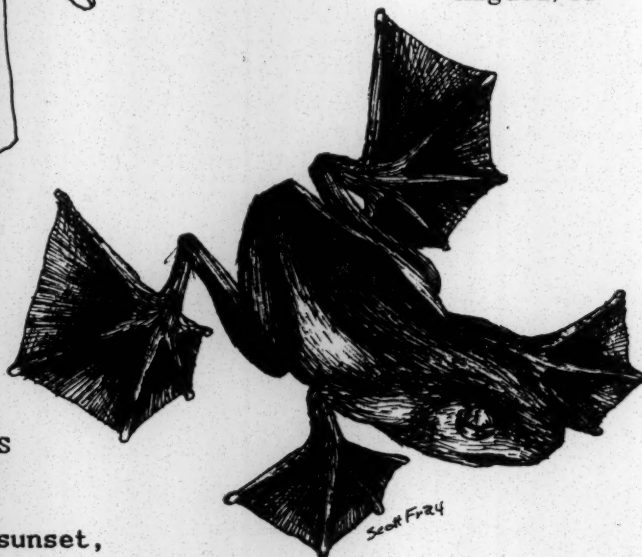


Stand shining and free  
Find your work  
Your gifts to be ★  
Let them wend into this world  
For there is great need.

by Joan Walters

★  
All things pure and simple--  
in tune with the Energies,  
basic am I  
basic is living,  
elements 4  
for all things go on  
as I  
in my energy. ★

Miguel/85



# SHADOW LONGINGS by Lenore

It's beautiful--the sunset,  
With faint wisps of an expectant rain  
breathing in the air.  
A luminescent purple  
transcends the tops of graceful trees.  
The heavenly fragrance of  
gardenias permeates the breeze  
giving the effect of a beauty  
beyond words.  
The trees surrender to the wind,  
each bowing in turn to the other.  
At this moment, I wish to be with the one I love,  
lying in silent communion.





Seek Liberty--Don't Assume it!

by Geoff Pfaff

Where is the Freedom in America? This is a country founded with the assumption that all men are created equal. At what time in this country's past have all men in the United States enjoyed equal liberty?

From witch burnings to persecution of Communism (in many cases more imagined than real) to denial of women's and black's votes, this country has a long history of denial of equal rights. We have not learned by our mistakes, however, and continue to deny the rights of every citizen in every state that continues to hold a sodomy law on the books. The Supreme Court conveniently denied an overturn of the law based on the Constitution because as Judge Powell decided the defendant (Hardwick) was not prosecuted. Should Hardwick get 20 years in prison as prescribed by Georgia law before the law was overturned? And since when does the Supreme Court show bias to any group? Since always! How unfortunate that a non-Gay subject has been turned into Gay persecution (and never forget, when one group's rights have been abridged, the rights of others are at direct risk--not only on alleged moral/sexual grounds. Patrick Henry said, "I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it" to illustrate how easily rights can be broken/twisted/alterd/destroyed).

I have lived in Georgia for 8 years--I came here from Illinois because I found Atlanta to be very liberal; however, Atlanta is part of Georgia, and Georgia is still a state manifesting blind prejudice and self-righteous hatred in the governance of its people. I wanted to retire here, to live out my old age in the north Georgia Appalachian mountains--however I have had my mind changed for me. I will, as soon as I can, go west to a state with better laws and more tolerant feelings, one that respects my right to privacy, not only because of my Gay orientation but for religious and ethical reasons as well. Leaders in the west have called for boycotts of Georgia products; I call for a boycott of Georgia. Politically the best thing I feel I can do is leave--stop paying taxes into a state that does not care about my liberty and does not mind telling me so. For the people of Georgia, band together and acknowledge each other first then seek political help. However, bear in mind where you live and what kind of struggle you will have. They don't call this the Bible Belt because of Christian love, but because of fundamentalist mentality guiding the political/moral structure of the government--a mentality defined by xenophobia, executed malefically, and justified in the name of a God of Love---this is real in this state. Liberty is a thing to seek out--and fight for--in America--Liberty is not given by this country any more than it is given in Russia.

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AID Atlanta, 811 Cypress Street, N.E., Atlanta, GA, 30308.  
Phone: 404-872-0600

give to organizations within your state.

### MEAD AND MYTH

Lots of people know that the ancient Scandinavians liked to drink honey wine called mead; but not many are aware that this golden beverage (along with other forms of alcohol) is significant in old Norse religion.

One of the Viking myths deals with some very special mead indeed. This mighty brew was no ordinary intoxicant, but gave the gift of magical inspiration to those who drank of it. It was much desired by poets and the Gods themselves, who could use its mind-expanding power for the defense of their realm and our own--Asgard and Midgard, respectively. You can imagine the concern of Odin, when this potion fell into the hands of the giants--the sworn foe of all the Gods and of Humanity.  
Something had to be done!

Odin went travelling in disguise and was hired as a fieldhand by the brother of the giant who possessed the mead. He placed his unsuspecting employer so thoroughly in his debt the giant agreed to help him win a taste of the magical drink. The accomplice bored a hole in the mountain dwelling of his brother Suttung, and Odin turned himself into a snake and wriggled into the stronghold. Once there, he slept with Suttung's daughter who, after spending three nights with this persuasive stranger, offered him a drink of the precious mead. In a moment he swallowed the entire supply, changed himself into an eagle, and flew back to Asgard where he delivered it to the rest of the waiting Gods and Goddesses--thus powers of mead were reserved for them, poets, and others who seek holy ecstasy. Only a little dribbled out of Odin's mouth as he flew, and that became the leavings which inspire those inferior poets who write only doggerel!

This myth confirms what we know from other sources--that alcoholic drink was used in Northern Europe as the carrier of the divine energy, and specifically of religious inspiration and ecstasy. Our modern word "ale" is related to the Old Norse alu, which originally referred to the holy power carried in the liquid, and only later came to mean the intoxicant itself. Alu spelled in runic characters (𐌱𐌴𐌺) and engraved on talismans or carved on stone monuments was a popular magical formula among the ancient Germanic tribes. Today it is still in use, as is the consecrated mead, by modern followers of the Norse deities.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The literal translation of the above runes is: 𐌱 -anuz (messages from the Gods), 𐌴 -laguz (through the Holy Waters), 𐌺 -uruz (bringing Divine Wisdom).





THE OLDEST SCIENCE (IV)

by

Lew Paxton Price

In Babylon the last great pinnacle of civilized knowledge was attained. This city was the center of civilization thru many centuries of warfare between squabbling rulers, tribes, nations, and city states of the Ancient world. Each time a conqueror was powerful enough to subjugate a large part of the known world, Babylon would open her gates to him and the conqueror would march into the city to rule in much the same manner that a new president or governor today rules from a capitol city. The works of architecture and art, libraries, national standards of measurement, and original flavor of Babylon were preserved thru time to grow more and more impressive.

The Sumerian language and alphabet were retained for religious ceremony and scientific writing, just as we use the dead languages of Latin and Ancient Greek. Akkadian, which was primarily Semitic, became the language of the state. Public schools for children, banking, contracts, bills of lading, deeds to property, government bureaucracies, national defense, interest on loans, inflation, world trade, taxes, the struggle between church and state, juvenile delinquency, penal systems, and all the other mixed blessings of our modern world were a part of Ancient Babylon.

Coexisting with Babylon was the state of Israel, which lay at the crossroads of international trade between Phoenicia, Babylonia, Persia, Egypt, and a multitude of lesser nations. Her allegiance was to no one but her God, but she paid tribute according to the dictates of the larger nations when she could not avoid doing so by resisting. She was threatened by Phoenicia, Babylonia, and Egypt, but was geographically located at the edge of each major empire so that it required more than a minor effort from each to keep her subjugated.

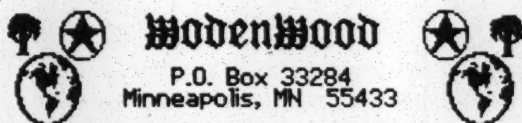
There was a time when the Assyrians dominated the Babylonian Empire. Of all the barbarous and cruel practices of the warlike nations of the Ancient world, the Assyrians had all the prizes for the worst. Their atrocities against the Israelites were unsurpassed until the time of Adolph Hitler, and they embittered the Jewish nation against them as no other rulers of Babylonia had done. To the Israelites, Babylon became synonymous with Assyria, and no words were adequate to describe the evil of the Babylonians.

The Assyrians contributed to Babylon their knowledge of warfare (the most advanced of its time) and what was to become known as the Chaldean flame alphabet. The alphabet, first imposed upon Assyrian subjects, was later adopted as the official alphabet of the Israelites. Today, we call it Hebrew.

Hebrew is a language devised by the wisest of the ancient scholars. Each letter of its alphabet simultaneously represents a thing, an idea, a sound, and a number. Each word is a sequence of things or ideas and a number. Each number is a sequence of things or ideas and a word. All words have sums when their numbers are added and all sums fall into a deliberate pattern. The Hebrew language, in written form, is a beautiful tool to be used for encoding secrets--the Bible is filled with them. For instance, the second chapter of Numbers in the Bible is really a set of instructions for laying out an astrological chart.



I am interested in corresponding, discussing, philosophizing about symbolism, occult significance of mythology/history, the calendar and cycles. Discourse is vital to the life and shape-taking of concepts/convictions. Nancy, P.O. Box 3208, St. Augustine, Florida 32084



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by Aridiana

In the curved mirror of infinite space  
She saw Her reflection and knew Herself  
Self-conscious, Self-curious  
She pushed Her reflection from Her  
The better to see and to know.  
The point of the deepest, most intimate link  
Was the last to separate and pull away  
So that when Her reflection  
At last stood free  
It had a penis that ever yearned  
And reached for whence it came.



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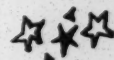


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by James Stuart Koch

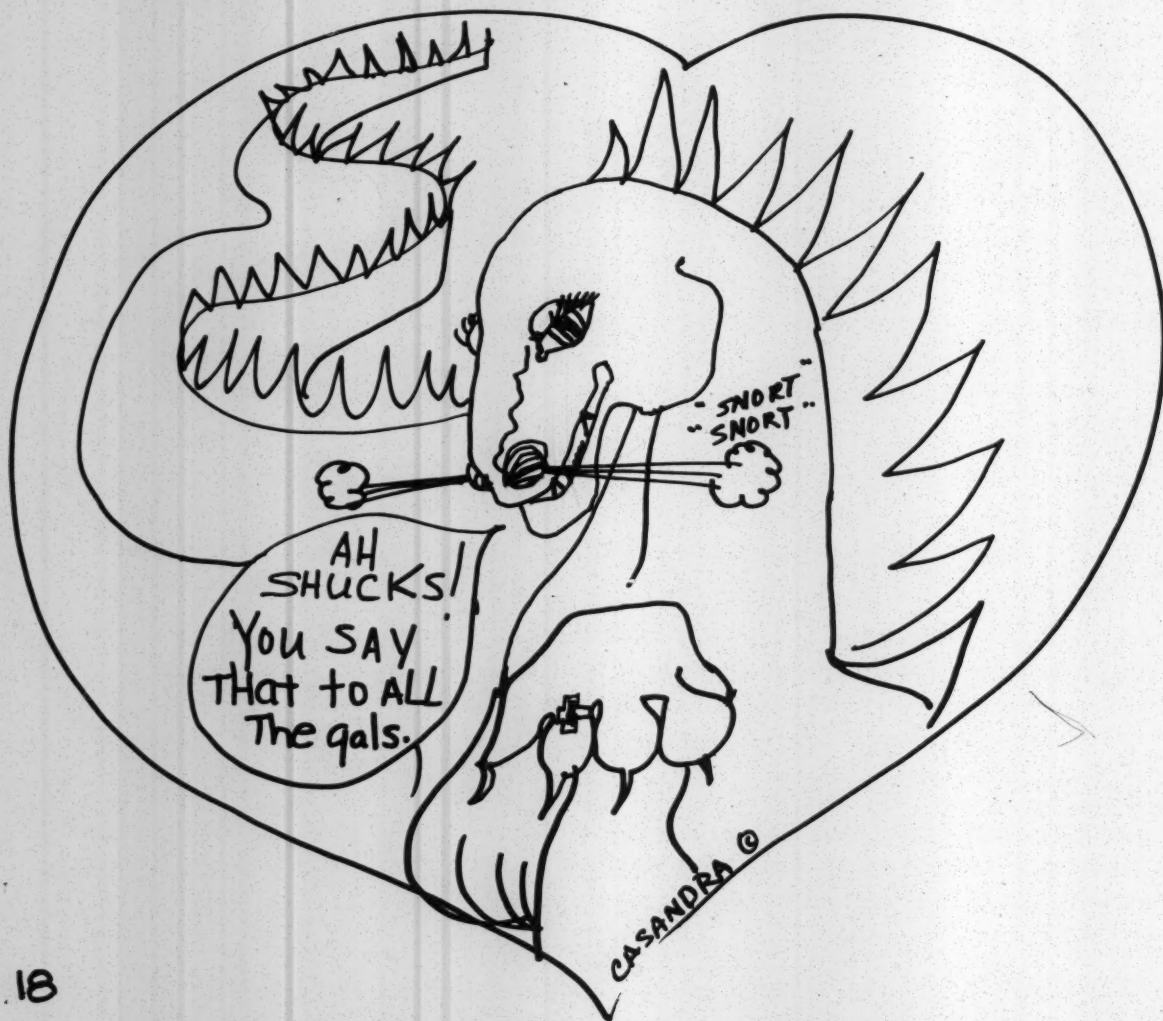
Come and join the fire dance  
Spin and circle jump and prance  
Join the circle of the dance  
Round the fire dancing

Join the dancing young and old  
Find an empty hand to hold  
Some are shy and others bold  
Round the fire dancing

Mister holds a willing miss  
Glowing embers pop and hiss  
Lovers share a joyful kiss  
Round the fire dancing

Share the warming firelight  
Hold your partner close and tight  
Love and fire warm the night  
Round the fire dancing

Join while there is yet a tune  
Nights of joy all end too soon  
Spin beneath the silver moon  
Round the fire dancing





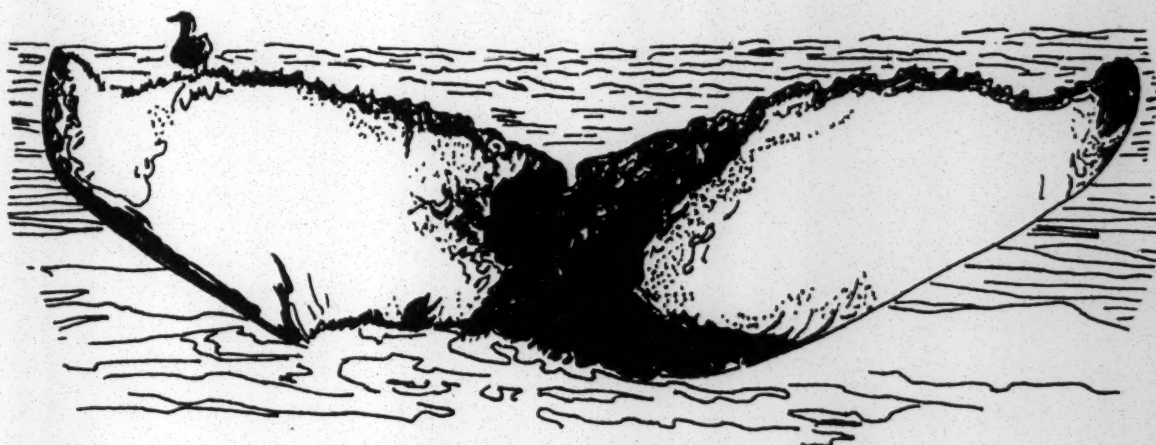
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Whale Adoption  
by Karen Weed

The Whale Adoption Project makes it possible for anybody to help make a difference in the future of Humpback Whales. The project was founded in 1984 by the International Wildlife Coalition to help save a species that is greatly endangered (as are all the great whales). There are only 5,000 Humpback whales left in the world--7% of their past population. Their endangered status is strictly the result of man (commercial whaling). The Humpbacks involved with the Adoption Project are part of a group that migrates from Winter range in the Caribbean to the northern coasts of Cape Cod during the Summer. A whale is as identifiable by the markings on their tail-fins (flukes) as we are by our finger-prints--over 350 whales have been identified/named. For \$15 (fee) you can choose from a list of 70 names (with brief descriptions of each individual) the Humpback you'd like to adopt. You will be listed as the official protector and receive an actual adoption certificate and picture of your "child". The newsletter "WHALEWATCH" will keep you up to date on what's happening in your child's world. For adoption application and additional information write: Whale Adoption Project, 320 Gifford Street, Falmouth, Massachusetts, 02540.

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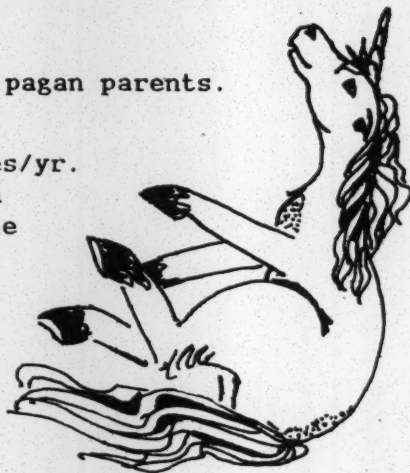
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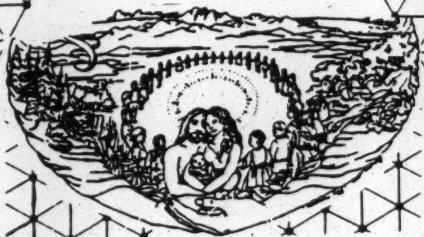
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### Llewellyn Astrological Calendar (\$6.95)

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Bound in wire spiral, pages contain total coverage of planetary positions/aspects with space for jotting in notes/appointments. There is a list of celestial phenomena, table of planetary hours, and conversion chart for world time zones. Beginners will appreciate the introduction, which gives enough information to be a course in astrology by itself.

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by Donna Rhose

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